many in the Virginia Colony endowed by nature and equipped by training for a work of this sort as could have been found elsewhere at that time and under similar conditions. But their energies were turned in other directions, and the contribution of the Virginia gentleman was in the political construction of a new government. Even as it was, there are a few instances where really valuable contributions were made to American literature and under circumstances that were not propitious for such work.

An author signing himself "T. M.," whose identity has never been thoroughly well established, though he is supposed to have been Thomas Matthews, a son of the Governor of that name, wrote "The Beginning, Progress and Conclusion of Bacon's Rebellion" in the years 1775 and 1776. Then, in 1676, a hundred years before the Revolution, there is a very admirable production by Mrs. Anne Cotton, of Q Creek. Mr. Esten Cooke speaks of her as a "shadow." Her work was entitled "An Account of Our Late Troubles in Virginia." "A Narrative of the Indian and Civil Wars in Virginia in the Years 1675-1676," is by an author absolutely unknown. Two valuable histories of Virginia were produced in the first half of the eighteenth century by Robert Beverley, published in 1705, and one by William Stith, published in 1747. Mr. Beverley's history is valuable mainly for the fact of its thorough treatment of the political and economic conditions of society in Virginia. He was a most patriotic Virginian, but he dealt with characters and conditions under his treatment with perfect candor and frankness.

Mr. Stith was a professor at William and Mary College. His work is considered a most valuable contribution to the history of colonial days. His sincere desire for accuracy won for him the name of "The Accurate Stith." He had planned to write a complete history of Virginia, but for some reason he never succeeded in carrying out his purpose. Perhaps the most brilliant contribution to the literature of the day was by Hon. William Byrd, of Westover, a Virginia gentleman of exceeding fine culture and of charming and winsome social gifts. He is described as "one of the brightest stars in the social skies in Virginia," and as having had "personal beauty, elegant manners, literary culture and the greatest gayety of disposition." His style is exuberant, piquant and unconscious, thoughtless and careless of what critics might say, or as to how his productions might be received. His writings have been preserved under the title of "The Westover Manuscripts." The longest of his productions is "The History of the Dividing Line." It is the story of his journey and labor in connection with the fixing of the boundaries between Virginia and North Carolina. This writing bristles with wit and humor, and is a thoroughly vigorous and wholesome book. In much the same vein he wrote afterwards "The Journey to the Land of Eden," and still later "Progress to the Mines."

If space permitted, mention might be made of earlier writings on the part of the Englishmen associated with the establishment of the first English colony in America, and of other writings at later dates by Virginians. In these sporadic contributions there can at least be discovered suggestions of what the Virginia gentleman might have done in literature had he been so minded.

Perhaps the most distinguishing attribute of the colonial gentleman was his cheerful and assiduous hospitality. It may be the conditions surrounding him are to be credited with the necessity that called for the cultivation of the grace of hospitality. The lapses in the neighborhoods of the settlement were very great, and ordinarily homes were widely removed from one another. Mails were irregular and infrequent. Facilities for travel and intercommunication were very meagre, so that any contact with the outer world became an interesting episode in the lives of the people. These conditions made hospitality not only necessary, but transformed it into an exceeding great privilege. It was pleasant to have around the table and the evening hearthstone any one who brought tidings of the outer world. Mr. Beverley says: "The inhabitants were very courteous to travelers, who needed no other recommendation than the fact of being a human creature. A stranger has but to inquire upon the road where any gentleman or good housekeeper lives, and there he may depend upon being received with hospitality. This good nature is so general among the people that the gentry, when they go abroad, order their principal servants to entertain all visitors with everything the plantation affords. And the poor planter who has but one bed will often sit up all night or lie upon the floor or couch to make room for a weary traveler after his journey."

There are numerous and most entertaining accounts of where whole families would enjoy for weeks, and even months, at a time the hospitality of another household. It is related how, in their eagerness for entertainment, the heads of establishments would place at convenient points upon the country road dusky messengers who were to press entertainment and hospitality upon any one who chanced to pass that way. This hospitality was as affluent as it was cordial. The Virginian had gotten far away from the hardships of the earlier years of the colonial life, and by the beginning of the eighteenth century the saying of Mr. Berkeley was very likely altogether true that "the Colony of Virginia was the most flourishing country the sun ever shone over."

A wonderful change had taken place since the first days of the great plantations. Luxury and plenty had taken the place of discomfort and want. There was produced on the plantation well-nigh everything that ministered to bodily comfort and ease. Food there was in rich and varied profusion; luxuries, such as books, wines, silks and laces were exchanged at the planter's wharf for his tobacco, so that the cost of hospitality was never taken into account, and the obligations, if there were any, seemed to be on the part of the host rather than the guest. Even under the changed conditions that have come about since the great Civil War, it is hard for the impoverished Virginian to forget the kindly trick of hospitality. Even to-day a stranger may knock at nightfall at well-nigh any rural home, and if any reasonable account can be given of himself he is sure to be received and the cordial, if not the affluent, hospitality of the elder day bestowed upon him.

The colonial gentleman was a man of exuberant spirits, and great attention was given to the finding of avenues for its expression and expenditure. After the long years of hardships and sufferings there followed an era of unusual and extraordinary freeness and gaiety. The opening years of the eighteenth century have truly been designated as the golden age of Virginia. They are alluded to more than any other days as "the good old times." The arrangement of the society and the conditions of industrial and commercial life were such as to afford large time and opportunity for the pursuit of pleasure. During the winter months a large number of planters went to Williamsburg and indulged in an incessant round of gaieties of one sort and another. There was the social life and the fine social functions incident to the annual meeting of the Grand Assembly. There the theatre was brought and companies from London presented to the colonial gentleman Shakespeare and Congreve for his instruction and entertainment. There were the colonial balls, given at frequent intervals, in the famous Apollo apartment in the Raleigh Tavern. A glimpse of this joyous and happy and careless life is to be seen in the early letters of Jefferson, where he tells of the escapades of the college boys and of the throbbing streets, and the balls at the Raleigh Tavern, in which he and his dear Belinda danced the happy hours away.

Not all of the amusements indulged in by the colonial gentleman were free from the criticisms of coarseness and cruelty. There was a favorite entertainment furnished by a cruel game that was called gouging. Two combatants engaged one another in muscular contest, the main purpose of which was to gouge an eye out, and when once the strong fingers of a combatant's hand found the eyeball of the other, unless he cried "enough" and gave up the fight, he was apt to lose his eye as the reward of his foolish courage. It is said that certain men had their fingers and nails manicured in such a way as to increase their effectiveness in a conflict of this sort, the nails being carefully sharpened and toughened by some mysterious process known to the expert gougers of the day.

Cards and dice were also popular amusements, indulgence in which sometimes amounted to a widespread craze. More than once the Grand Assembly felt that the widespread custom demanded official recognition and regulation. Debts for gambling could not be collected by any process of law, and keepers of taverns and public houses were forbidden, under severe penalty, to allow gambling in public places.

Horse-racing was considered the especial sport of the colonial gentleman. The development of the race-horse was very rapid. It was a long time before the colonial gentleman ever thought of the horse as being for drudgery, but considered him as an animal to afford them pleasure rather than profit, so that great pride was taken especially in the saddle-horse. Horseback riding was a universal accomplishment, both for the colonial gentleman and the colonial dame. One of the first signs of increased prosperity then, even as it is now, was the purchase of a horse by the colonial swain. It was natural that, with such a general pride in the horse, trials of excellence in speed and durability should follow. So it came about that horse-racing was the universal sport among the gentlemen of the day. There were certain aristocratic pretensions about the sport that received legislative recognition, and there were enactments governing the sport, excluding from it those who were not entitled to the name of gentlemen. There is a record in the court of York county where it is said that "James Bullock, a tailor, having made a race for his mare to run with a horse belonging to Matthew Slater, for two thousand pounds of tobacco and caske, it being contrary to law for a laborer to make a race, being a sport only for gentlemen, is fined for the same one hundred pounds of tobacco and caske," and the record proceeds to further state that "whereas Mr. Matthew Slater and James Bullock, by conditions under the hand and seal of the said Slater, that his horse should run out of the way so that Bullock's mare might win, which is an apparent cheat, is ordered to be put in the stocks and there sit for one hour."

In 1730 it was very common for horses to be kept only for racing, and at many convenient places "race paths" were established. At Williamsburg there were elaborate arrangements made for the conduct of races twice a year, in the autumn and in the spring. Provisions were made for starters, judges and the usual regulations as to weights, handicaps of one sort and another. The course at Williamsburg was for the mile, two-mile, three-mile and even four-mile heats, it being plainly evident that the Virginian was seeking not simply the quality of speed, but the combined qualities of speed and durability in their racing stock.

Cockfighting was a general and gruesome pastime among the Virginia gentlemen, and great attention was given to the rearing of good fighting stock and great care given in its training. The sport seems to have been a very general one. The authorities at William and Mary College were obliged to legislate strenuously against the sport as practiced among the students. Mr. Cooke rescues from obscurity, and puts in the niche of fame, a breed of fighting cocks of the Spangles variety, which had been victors on many battlefields, and which were called "Bacon's Thunderbolts." We are disposed to hand this breed of bellicose roosters down to increased fame by making record of their name in this place.

As an indication of the spirit of the day in matters of sport and recreation, we give the following quotation from the "Gazette" of October, 1737, which announced that "there are to be horse-racing and several other diversions for the entertainment of the gentlemen and ladies at the Old Field. Besides the races there is to be given a hat to the value of two shillings to be cudgelled for, and that after the first challenge is made, the drum is to beat every quarter hour for a challenge around the ring and not to be played with the left hands. A reward is offered for successful competitors in a musical competition in which twenty fiddles are to be used, and each fiddler is to play a different tune. Twelve boys are to run one